

REGULAR MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

This Regular Meeting of Council was called to order on the above-stated date at the above-stated time after the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence by President of Council Richard Dellapenna with the following Members of Council present:

**RC-1 PRESENT: RICHARD DELLAPENNA, DALE
 McCALL, FAWN WALKER-
 MONTGOMERY, JAMIE BREWSTER-
 FILOTEI, DANIEL CARR, JAMES
 BARRY, KEITH SOLES**

Pastor John DeBaridas of Link in the Chain Ministries led the prayer.

Also present were Mayor Michael Cherepko, City Administrator Matthew Gergely, City Solicitor J. Jason Elash and members of the Administration.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Barry,
 "To approve the minutes from the Special
 Council Meeting of August 17, 2015."**

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| RC-2 | YEAS: | DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER- MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR, BARRY, SOLES | 7 |
| | NAYS: | NONE..... | 0 |

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Received an invitation from the Housing Authority for the Grand Opening of Yester Square on Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
- Received the August 2015 statistics for the Police Department.
- Received the August 2015 Fire Department Report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Mayor Cherepko said he will be brief. He said first and foremost, and definitely not a high note, he wanted to address the closing of Bulk Conveyor Specialists, Inc. (BCSI) which they may have read in the newspaper. He said it looks like they will be closing at the end of the year. He said they are located in the RIDC site. He said they are inquiring about the details and have put calls into the president of the company. He said they have given him their personal cell phone numbers so that he can get back to them because they do want to get over there to see exactly what it is and if there is anything the City can do to keep them here. He said knowing the type of business they were in, he hates to say it, but it was just a matter of what is going on around us. He said like the economy. He said he is hoping that there is something that the City can do on their end. He said they are waiting for them to get back to the City. He said they did not want to take a chance on a phone call coming through the office, so they left their personal cell phone numbers and are waiting to hear from them. He said they would like to meet with them and have a conversation with them. He said as with many of the ups and downs that take place in the City, they are made of hard work and blue collar people and McKeesport always survives and bounces

back. He said they cannot let one bump in the road, as horrible as it may be to know that there are so many employees that can lose their jobs, roughly 100 people, and he is not belittling that point by any means. He said if there is nothing the City can do about it, they will have to move on and keep fighting and working together to truly make McKeesport a better place to live and work for each and every one of them. He said it is without question a sad day when they get those types of notices sent to them. He said as if there are not enough things in the day that can ruin your day; he can assure them that those things do. He said his heart goes out to the families that are affected when these types of things happen, just like when U.S. Steel closed last year. He said all they can do is keep the families in your prayers because it is not easy. He said when they talk about the mills, he was part of a family as well when his father was laid off years ago growing up and they went through hard times. He said just keep the family and the employees in your prayers over there. He said he will assure everyone that if there is anything that the City can do on their end, they will do it.

- Mayor Cherepko said he just has a few board appointments to make. He said there are three boards and one is a reappointment. He said two will be new members. He said the first one, and he will ask the President of Council to ask for a motion. He said Duane Senay, the former Police Chief in the City, has been serving on the Ambulance Authority for quite some time and his term has expired. He said he is asking for a motion and Council's consent to reappoint Mr. Senay to the Ambulance Authority.
- Mr. Dellapenna said he would like a motion to reappoint Duane Senay to the McKeesport Ambulance Authority.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To reappoint Duane Senay to the McKeesport Ambulance Authority."

RC-3 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-
MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mayor Cherepko said there is a vacancy that has been on the Municipal Authority for quite some time. He said he is asking for Council to appoint Jonathan Cottom to the Municipal Authority. He said Jonathan Cottom is a lifelong resident of McKeesport and lives on Grandview Avenue and works down at the Pittsburgh Bone and Joint Center. He said Jonathan has been there quite some time. He said Jonathan is no stranger to McKeesport. He said this is a vacancy they should have filled quite a while ago and with everything going on over at the Authority, they want to make sure that they have a full board in place. He said he is asking for a motion to appoint Jonathan Cottom.

MOTION: **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To appoint Jonathan Cottom to the McKeesport Municipal Authority."**

RC-4 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-
MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mayor Cherepko said the last appointment for this evening is one that comes with a heavy heart. He said as nice as it is to see a young man like they have in Tom Maglicco sitting over there as the controller, they know Tom is sitting there because they lost the former Controller and a gentleman who cared so deeply about the City for so long and wore so many hats. He said one of his hats was a board member of

the Senior Center Board and he is asking to appoint Michele Matuch on that board. He said Michele, who by no means looks like a senior, will be a tremendous asset to that board as they continue to try to do unique things for the City's senior population. He said it is not just for the seniors in McKeesport but for the seniors in the Mon Valley. He said he is sure they will be utilizing Michele's skills and talents, maybe some fundraising efforts, if he may hint around as well, to help with the Senior Center. He said Michele will be a tremendous asset to that board as she is with any hat she has ever worn in the City for years.

MOTION: Mr. Barry moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To appoint Michele Matuch to the Renzie Senior Center Board."

RC-5 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR, BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

- Mayor Cherepko said the last part of his report is going to be a presentation of four proclamations that are going to four award winners out of the Select Committee on Crime and Violence which became the Message Committee. He said if they remember a few months back they selected four people that truly exemplified what these words mean, to live the words of Respect, Dignity, Love and Hope, to be an example to those in the community. He said last time they had a nice variety as far as ages go and that is important to know that they have people, sometimes young adults and all the way up, that truly live these words. He said these words are so instrumental in what they need and they should truly believe in these words. He said he uses the word "believe" often because that is what they need in order to make McKeesport a better place to live for each and every one of

them. He said he doesn't want to steal her thunder but he wanted to give them a little bit of background. He said at this time before he presents the awards and award winners, he would like to ask JoEllen Kenney, who dedicated decades of her time at the Carnegie Library of the City of McKeesport. He said she has been an instrumental part of the Select committee on Crime and Violence as well as the Message Committee and someone who, even when she retired from the Library, still has her heart and soul in the City of McKeesport as with so many others who move on to other stages in their lives. He said would JoEllen please come up and say a few words, then they will go through the proclamations and presentations. He said these four individuals will also be in their next INCommunity Magazine, with a little biography about each of them. He said those who are here tonight, will be a little more educated on this and understand how these people were chosen.

- Ms. JoEllen Kenney said she was here to represent the Message Committee, which is a subcommittee of the Mayor's Select Committee on Crime and Violence. She said with all due respect to the Council, they probably know what she is about to say, so she is going to turn around and talk to the audience if they do not mind. She said as the Mayor said it was back in 2012 that he created the Mayor's Committee on Crime and Violence. She said many, many people met from all walks of life, from agencies, from the school district, from the hospital and City government. She said they met many times to discuss what could possibly happen in the City of McKeesport to change and get a hold on the violence. She said many things came out of that large committee, from their conversations they determined that they needed a positive message about the City of McKeesport and the people who live in the City. She said then the Message Committee met and they came up with what they thought was their first attempt at having some words that meant something to the City and the students. She said those words were Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love. She said

those words, which they thought were their first four words that they were going to use, turned into the message of the Committee that they are still promoting...Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love. She said there were naysayers of course and people that just shook their heads and thought they were a little bit crazy in that they could come up with four words and could change the City. She said a word that they didn't use was perseverance. She said they did not stop or give up. She said they see the signs that are around the City and hopefully you notice them as you are driving in on every intersection there is one sign. She said there are signs in each ward and most public places that you go through you will see the message, Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love. She said and so we persevered, had rallies, had prayer services and programs in the schools. She said they have bracelets. She said if you don't have a bracelet, let her know and she would be happy to get one for them. She said they have bracelets, backpacks and they had essays written about the word Respect. She said it was very, very touching for the children to tell them about what it meant to them to feel respect. She said what was needed to get their respect. She said most of all, they wanted the kids to know how hard it is to live in a place that does not receive respect, even to the point of being disrespected. She said that is why they continue on with their messages and continue on trying to promote them. She said a couple of months ago, they thought that there are people out there in the community that are living their message. She said they need to find those people. She said they had four people at July's Council meeting and they had four people this evening that they are telling them that they are living the message. She said the committee wants this to go on and on. She said they are talking now about having permanent displays someplace that show their citizens that are living the message. She said what they are asking and hoping is that the citizens can do ... they are not looking for celebrities or politicians ... they are looking for the everyday people who are in their neighborhood or in their school or in your

workplace that quietly go about their day, living dignity, living respect, hope and love. She said they are asking for applications, which will be at City Hall, or they can call the Mayor's Office, if someone you know is living our message. She said he might give them his private telephone number too. She said please call the Mayor's office if they have an immediate name. She said they want this to be ongoing and they are looking for people in the community who live the message. She said that is what they are asking from everyone here. She said they will have the applications at public places so people can pick them up and they will hear more about this. She said if anyone knows what they are talking about and can help, please take a second to think about someone they might know, they can immediately write down their name. She said they are happy this evening to once again have four people and Mayor Cherepko will do the honors of presenting the proclamations to the four people tonight. She said thank you.

- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks it is important to recognize that these are recommended by people like the citizens in the audience tonight. He said if they are involved with the community, they will take recommendations and the committee looks at them and a decision is made. He said he thinks the first four that they chose were without question fantastic choices and these four people are equally as good. He said he thinks it is something to be proud of. He said the first presentation is going for Dignity and the awardee is Monique Peterson.

Whereas, the McKeesport Message Committee uplifts the values of Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love through the community program and other efforts; and

Whereas, Monique Peterson of McKeesport embodies the virtue of Dignity in her volunteer commitment to the Community Partnership for HIV Prevention which uses fellowship to reach statistically at risk individuals and break

the negative stigma associated with HIV testing and the AIDS virus; and

Whereas, Monique has been engaged in the promotion of social welfare through the Community Partnership for HIV Prevention with programs such as the Balm of Gilead, a healing-through-prayer event, and the National HIV Testing Day Service and through her involvement with a wealth of community based organizations;

Now, therefore, as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, I do hereby honor Monique Peterson as the Living the Message Awardee for Dignity.

- Ms. Peterson said she will be short and sweet but she would like to thank everyone, the folks who nominated her and supported her in her endeavors. She said it is great to see that the City is acknowledging these valid heroes in the community and it is truly appreciated. She said on behalf of the Community Partnership of HIV Prevention and the folks who she is involved with, she thanks all of them.
- Mayor Cherepko said the next awardee goes to Andy Sandusky for Love.

Whereas, the McKeesport Message Committee uplifts the values of Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love through the community program and other efforts; and

Whereas, Andy Sandusky of McKeesport has shared with generations of City residents, his love and sympathy for children who are in critical need of medical care through the establishment of the A. Sandusky Free Care Friends Drive; and

Whereas, Andy has contributed annually to the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Free Care Fund since 1973 having raised more than \$200,000 through open donations, Fire Department Boot Collections, motorcycle runs and, this year, a golf event;

Now, therefore, as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, I do hereby honor Andy Sandusky as the Living the Message Awardee for Love.

- Mr. Sandusky said it is not me that has raised this money, the people did it for him. He said he knows he is paying out from this and that, say what you want, just give me the money. He said he gets more and more and more each time he gets in an affair like this. He said he appreciates it especially when he walks through the door at Children's Hospital. He said some of those kids never had a chance and it just makes him stronger and a gathering like this really gets to him too. He said he enjoys doing what he is doing and when he walks through those doors down there, it is all worth it. He said thank you for all of your support every year.
- Mayor Cherepko said the next winner is a young man and the award goes to Dylan Ernst for Respect. He said they had a young man last time they chose this as well, and in this day and age, it says a lot for the younger generation to really lead by example and be an example out there.

Whereas, the McKeesport Message Committee uplifts the values of Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love through the community program and other efforts; and

Whereas, Dylan Ernst, 19, of McKeesport has embraced the notion of Respect in a leadership role among seasonal employees who tended the vacant lots with the City of McKeesport Public Works Department in an effort to tackle blight; and

Whereas, Dylan exhibits the virtue of Respect in all aspects of his life with support from his family, co-workers, and community. He believes all McKeesport residents should respect their property, neighbors and do their part to make McKeesport a better place to live.

Now, therefore, as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, I do hereby honor Dylan Ernst as the Living the Message Awardee for Respect.

- Mayor Cherepko said the younger guys tend to be a little shy. He said the last award winner was the same way.
- Mr. Ernst said he just wants to thank everyone as well as his parents and teachers for teaching him what it means to respect himself and others.
- Mayor Cherepko said their last award winner goes to Hope and of course he thinks they all know what Hope is ... believing in the future of the City of McKeesport. He said he thinks their award winner fits that perfectly as well. He said Michele Matuch is the awardee for Hope.

Whereas, the McKeesport Message Committee uplifts the values of Respect, Dignity, Hope and Love through the community program and other efforts; and

Whereas, Michele Matuch, Board Member and retired Director of the McKeesport Hospital Foundation, has promoted the notion of Hope while striving for better access to healthcare and human services in McKeesport and the Mon Valley; and

Whereas, Michele is a strong local advocate for community health through her involvement in the McKeesport Hospital Foundation, McKeesport Healthier Community PartnerShip, Mon River Fleet and Mon River Fleet Lions Club.

Now, therefore, as Mayor of the City of McKeesport, I do hereby honor Michele Matuch as the Living the Message Awardee for Hope.

- Ms. Matuch said this really means a lot to her. She said she knows everyone is probably saying, "Oh Michele, you have been up here before..." She said 41 years with the Hospital and the Foundation, there could not be a more rewarding

career for her and that was giving of herself to so many people in their community that needed help. She said they have done that through this Foundation and in fact they are going to be hearing something in the near future, which they can't tell them tonight, but the Foundation is taking a big part in this community and its future. She said when you look at Hope, Love, Dignity and Respect; you have to believe in your community in order to achieve all four of those things. She said with the Lions Club now too, their new message with the new President is Humility, Humanity and Dignity. She said those all are very, very important but you have to live that every single day for it to really work. She said you just don't start something and give up on it. She said they have to continue the work and work at it. She said she thinks they have done that in the Foundation and the community. She said thank you again so much.

- Mayor Cherepko said that concludes his report.

CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE:

- Mr. Dellapenna said next they are going to go to the Citizens in the Audience. He said when he calls their name, please come forward and keep in mind they have three minutes to speak. He said they do have a number of people signed up to speak this evening. He said would Mrs. Allen please come forward, state your name and your address.
- **WILMA ALLEN, 1718 FEDERAL STREET, McKEESPORT, PA 15132.** Ms. Allen said good evening Council and Mayor. She said she is Mrs. Allen and she thinks they know her by now. She said she is listening to all of these accolades here and she knows she wrote down that she is concerned about her neighborhood and the vacancies of the houses and the rubbish. She said she was going to complain about that. She said she likes this here – the Hope, the Love, the

Dignity and the Respect. She said that goes with the neighborhood. She said if you expand it and the people will come around to it. She said this could be applied to daily living with people in the neighborhoods. She said if they have more of that, there will be fewer complaints. She said that is all she has to say.

- **BEATRICE LONGO, 200 WAINWRIGHT DRIVE, McKEESPORT, PA AND DOROTHY TRAUTMANN, 224 HALSEY DRIVE, McKEESPORT, PA.** Ms. Longo said does that mean she gets six minutes. She said this is probably the only time Mrs. Trautmann is allowed anyway to speak for herself. She said as they know, both of them attend almost all the business meetings and Council meetings because they feel committed to McKeesport and want to know what is going on here. She said they were both quite surprised last night when they saw on the Agenda for tonight that they will be voting on a lease with EQT to allow them to do drilling, shale drilling, that would go under Renzie Park. She said as they know in the past, many of them were on Council then, when Mr. Brewster was the Mayor and is now Senator Brewster, and he wanted shallow well drilling by the Park on the old Palkowitz property. She said the first thing Senator Brewster did was to set up a Public Meeting so that the citizens of McKeesport could be present to meet with the drillers and express their concerns. She said they do not know why and how this showed up on the Agenda before such a meeting took place. She said they are not talking about drilling in some state forest in the middle of Pennsylvania, or a rural area. She said they are talking about drilling next to one of their greatest assets in McKeesport, their Park. She said it is also within a mile or two of the High School, our Middle School, Auberle Home for Children, Penn State and several churches, the Heritage Center and she could go on and on. She said it is a very busy area. She said she would like to meet with EQT, and she is sure other citizens and residents who live around here ... it is also a residential area ... would like to meet with them

to find out what they are going to do to minimize any disasters that they may already know. She said early last year, in 2014, there was an explosion in Greene County, a more rural area that killed one person and caused a horrendous fire. She said if something like that happened near their Park that could be a horrendous disaster. She said also she wants to ask them about pollution. She said as they know when fracking is occurring, waste water is stored in either tanks or in-ground bins and there could be leakage. She said, in fact, EQT, the company that is going to be doing the drilling, in late 2014, was cited by the EPA who was fining them \$4.5 million for leakage in Tioga County that caused significant pollution to the soil and the water sources nearby. She said also it has been found that fracking causes seismic activity which has also been related to earthquakes on Ohio near Akron and in the Midwest and Canada. She said seismic activity is especially dangerous where there are underground abandoned mines. She said as many of them may know, most of them who live in Haler Heights are all undermined by abandoned mines. She said almost all of them, if they are smart, have mine subsidence insurance. She said she wants to ask EQT what is going to be done to make sure all is safe when they drill under the Park. She said she also wants to know when they have all of these trucks and equipment coming in to the area adjacent to the Park, to do the drilling, to bring in the water, to take out water, who is going to take care of the roads and repair any damage that is done to the City of McKeesport. She said she knows the City is hurting. She said she has a lot of other questions, but she would rather ask EQT. She said she also knows that in line with the publications she has been reading, that fracking affects property values. She said if she lives near a well, is she going to be able to sell her property for what she paid for it. She said \$400,000 as a signing bonus sounds great but it is a drop in the bucket compared to the billions that EQT earns every year. She said it is a sell out of the people of McKeesport if they don't get to meet with them and express their concerns. She said

\$400,000, is that what the safety of their children and schools is worth? She said what if they have an explosion. She said is that what their property values are worth when they tank and they can't sell their properties? She said is that what air pollution from methane gas and other chemicals is worth? She said she would like to meet with them and find out more about this. She said maybe they will be able to reassure her and she won't feel about them drilling next to Renzie Park. She said she thinks the beginning step is not ... they missed the beginning step. She said the second step is not approving this lease but it is having that meeting. She said the beginning step should have been what they did in North Huntingdon Township, which was to revise their zoning ordinance so that they had control over gas and oil drilling, controls that would protect the citizens of their township. She said they need the same protection. She said thank you.

- Mayor Cherepko said if he may comment. He said first and foremost, there will be meetings with EQT and they do educational seminars as well. He said please keep in mind that this drilling might take place years down the road. He said it is important that they do the education now and you will have them then. He said what they have is an issue with gas drilling. He said people are either for it or against it. He said it is that simple. He said drilling is regulated by the DEP and all the safety precautions are necessary. He said it is the up and coming thing. He said there are trillions of dollars of gas underneath their feet.
- Ms. Longo says those safety precautions ... are being voted on now in the legislature. She said and they are not
- Mayor Cherepko said she already spoke.
- Mr. Dellapenna said Ms. Longo. He said Mrs. Longo, Mrs. Longo. He said Mrs. Longo, please.

- Mayor Cherepko said they can sit here and debate this issue, but like he said, the issue she is debating is that she is either for it or you are not for it.
- Ms. Longo said no, there is an in-between.
- Mayor Cherepko said why is she talking.
- Mr. Dellapenna said Mrs. Longo, please.
- Mayor Cherepko said the issues that were discussed were all the cons for drilling and this is what the people that are anti-drilling discuss and share. He said that is the reality of it. He said all around them, they have several people around them that have already signed these agreements. He said they go on with or without the City. He said it makes no difference. He said they are talking about the opportunity of millions of dollars coming into this City if they ever drill. He said East Allegheny School District just did it not long ago. He said all of the areas around them are doing it. He said North Huntingdon passed an ordinance because they have wells all over. He said it was not to prevent them from coming in, but because they are letting them come in. He said they have wells all throughout all of North Huntingdon and Westmoreland County. He said Washington County too. He said it is becoming the way of the resources here. He said it is not billions of dollars of gas, but trillions. He said you just see right now that it is hot and heavy in the State Legislature because the Governor wants to put a severance tax on it. He said Senator Brewster, who is an advocate for drilling as well, is a big proponent of the severance tax. He said the severance tax alone, which gets paid in every other state in the country, except Pennsylvania. He said that is a crime in itself in his mind. He said it is a tax that can replenish much of the funding that has been cut to public education over the last four years under Governor Corbett and much more beyond that. He said this is an issue of ... they drilled a surface well in Renzie Park and they went through the process back then. He said he was on that

Council. He said the whole plan to be quite honest was to do Marcellus Shale drilling in Renzie Park. He said what they have is an opportunity to where there will not be a well in Renzie Park or on City property, they will be drilling adjacent to the property, whether the City is involved or not, if they chose to drill. He said they will do horizontal drilling that comes underneath the Park and extracts the gas. He said when they get into the dangers of it, yes there are dangers and that is why it is regulated. He said as he said last night, it is no different than the steel industry. He said the steel industry used to keep track of how many days they would go without a serious injury or death or one of those events. He said that is just part of the industry. He said in this day and age, the steel industry is long gone and they are coming across with a new industry and it is the gas industry. He said it is being approved all around them. He said the precautions and safety measures ... it was mentioned about someone being fined ... and that is good. He said that means they were fined because they were being regulated and making sure they preserve it. He said the reality is that it is controversial and they all know that, it is no secret. He said it is the way to generate the money and is going to take place around the City. He said they will educate the public and have public meetings for the public to express their concerns with EQT. He said that is if they chose to actually drill. He said for signing the lease agreement amongst the numerous other entities who have signed it, private owners, and public entities. He said he believes Penn State and Auberle are already on board.

- Ms. Longo said then why not have the meeting before they sign the lease.
- Mr. Dellapenna said Mrs. Longo, please, the Mayor gave her time so please give the Mayor his time. He said let the Mayor speak.

- Ms. Longo said she had three minutes and he has had about four times as long.
- Someone in the audience said does she have time to sign to speak, or is it too late to do that.
- Mr. Dellapenna said it is too late now.
- Mayor Cherepko said the reality of it is and here is the bottom line. He said they are going to get a room full of people that are for drilling and a room full of people who are against drilling. He said it is that simple. He said it doesn't get any more complicated than that. He said that is the issue here. He said they are either for it or against it. He said he, for one, is a proponent of drilling. He said as long as the safety measures are taken and preserve the environment, like will be done because everything is regulated by the DEP, he is a proponent of drilling. He said he is a proponent of the severance tax and a proponent of bringing in billions of dollars into the State of Pennsylvania to help offset property taxes, property tax reform and the funding that was cut to the schools. He said it is the reality of life right now, to use the natural resources so that they can get on their feet. He said that is his opinion as being for it. He said he is no different that someone who is standing there being against it. He said it is not arguing about what is actually going to take place, they will have meetings to make sure that our particular area around here is taken care of and they will be able to bring their concerns. He said however at the end of the day, it is a debate of whether you are for gas drilling or you are against it.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said won't the drilling be so far ... like a half-mile underneath the Park, it won't even
- Mayor Cherepko said it will probably be a mile ... as much as a mile.

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said yes, so it is not even really going to affect the Park. She said she does want to validate Ms. Longo's concerns and thank her for sharing them with Council. She said they did kind of talk about it last night because that was one of her concerns but the drilling is going to be so far underneath that even the concerns with fracking ... like the Mayor was saying, it is not really even going to be on the City's property. She said this drilling is going to be so far underneath City property that it is not really going to be on their property. She said she does want to validate her concerns. She said there will be a meeting before they drill because that is the question she brought up last night whether there will be educational meetings, seminars and she has talked with East Allegheny when they did this and she said there were meetings and other things. She said there will be no drilling before there is a meeting with the public. She said she does want to validate Ms. Longo's concerns and what she was saying.
- Mayor Cherepko said he does as well; please don't think he is disrespecting her opinion.
- Ms. Longo said she is not for or against it but she would like to hear more about it.
- Mr. Dellapenna said Mrs. Longo, please.
- Someone in the audience said she is going to leave because she knows they will throw her out for not following orders, but for an hour she has listened Dignity and Love and Hope and while
- Mr. Dellapenna called the Chief of Police.
- The person in the audience said she thinks they should give the citizens that same respect and allow discussion before they vote. She said Amen.

- Mr. Barry said if they don't act on this now, is there anything that prevents from drilling on adjacent property and going under and getting that gas from the City's property anyway.
- Mayor Cherepko said here is what they do. He said the bottom line is they drill next to the City property and are down a million feet. He said how does the City know if they are below their property or not. He said in all reality, no one is going to prove where they are and where they are not. He said the reality of it is, if they decide to drill, they can drill and take the gas underneath the City and the City gets nothing for it. He said it would be illegal, but do we know what is going on a million feet or a mile underneath them, or whatever it might be. He said the reality of it is ... that is the situation you are faced with. He said the bottom line ... they may never drill. He said the reality of it is, no matter what, and no disrespect to Kate, they are either for it or against it. He said no one is going to convince somebody to be okay with it. He said this is their stance, you are either for drilling, you are against it or you don't know. He said the reality of it is that their concerns are not necessarily about what is going to happen, they are about what could happen. He said the reality of it is that no one can ever guarantee that something is not going to happen. He said so are you going to change somebody's mind if they are concerned about what could happen. He said it is like is the glass half full or half empty. He said the reality of it is, no one could come in here and predict the future, no one can say for sure, all they can say is that it is a tightly regulated industry right now. He said they have to believe in the system of checks and balances to make sure the environment is protected and safe. He said accidents happen. He said he will tell them this, every time there is an explosion, they will hear about it. He said how often does that happen. He said it is about as often as you hear about a plane crash. He said let's be real. He said how many flights are taking off a day. He said he is just throwing that out as an analogy off the top of his head. He

said it makes national news anytime there is anything like that. He said but it does not happen often. He said the reality of it is, of course that is always a concern and yes it can happen and yes they look into it. He said you don't think they are looking into the fact regarding the mines and everything else, that is all western Pennsylvania and they are drilling all through here like crazy now. He said they are doing their geo-studies, the engineers, the core samples... they are doing all that before they drill. He said if it is something that cannot be done, then they won't do it. He said he looks at this as ... the City was prepared to do it on Renzie Park property. He said that was what Senator Brewster set this up for. He said Senator Brewster was planting the seed for them down the road. He said this is a significant amount of money to come to the City. He said he would not sell the City, if there wasn't a system...let's make this clear, if there was not a system of checks and balances and regulations by the DEP and every other agency that oversees these drilling projects, he would not throw the City under the bus for nothing. He said he just has to have faith in the system and the system of checks and balances. He said it is going on all around them. He said yes it is controversial, he knows that. He said but at the end of the day, your stance is your stance. He said he, for one, is a big proponent of it as long as they are preserving the environment. He said he believes in the system that is put in force to protect them. He said the reality is it is like having ... it is not billions of dollars, it is trillions. He said there is not just one layer of gas underneath them, they have three layers. He said there is the Marcellus, the Utica and he forgets the third one. He said it is here and it is not going away. He said if they look around the area, the County just decided to drill under Deer Lakes Park, over 1,000 acres, just last year. He said East Allegheny just did it. He said he is probably thinking that the School District did it but he is not going to speak for them. He said he doesn't understand how they are going to miss the boat, if the City is on this, Penn State is on this, and Auberle is on

this and the other private owners and entities around here. He said he is being repetitive right now. He said the bottom line is that they are either for it or against it. He said let's not beat around the bush. He said that is the stance they have now. He said he respects those that are against it. He said he is not saying they are wrong, he respects their opinion. He said he really does.

- Mr. Dellapenna said alright Mayor, they are going to move on now. He said thank you.
- **KATHI JENKINS SANFORD, 1038 PEEBLES LANE, McKEESPORT, PA 15132.** Ms. Sanford said she wants to thank them first of all for patching up 11th Street. She said she lives on that corner house where Peebles Lane is. She said it sits out like a sore thumb there. She said she wanted to thank them for patching 11th Street because there were big craters in it. She said second of all there is a house at 1030 Peebles Lane. She said she knows they have other houses to demolish but this house is like an eyesore and she is afraid it is going to be a fire hazard on her street. She said there are only ... there is a house down below, then that house with a garage behind it, and then there is a lot, another house and then her house. She said she is just so afraid it is going to go up in flames. She said anything could happen. She said she just wanted to know if they can put it on the list because she knows they have other ones to do.
- Mr. McCall said isn't there a vacant lot on each side of the house.
- Ms. Sanford said it sits in the alley.
- Mayor Cherepko said they will find it.
- Ms. Sanford it sits in the alley and there is a garage in back. She said the elderly man who was there moved to White Oak and since then he passed away.
- Mayor Cherepko said is there anything next to it.

- Ms. Sanford said no there are bushes and trees. She said John Sowa garage is across the street.
- Mayor Cherepko said as long as it is not next to another house that is one that can fall in the category of the City men doing the work.
- Ms. Sanford said no, it is empty and there is a yard there and then there is a house next to it. She said then there is a
- Mayor Cherepko said the house next to it but is it right next to it.
- Ms. Sanford said no. She said there is a space between them.
- Mayor Cherepko said they will put it on the list and he will talk to Steve, the Public Works Director, and take a look at it to see if it is one the City can do. He said at the very least, the summer kids are gone now, but they will at least come up and clean it up for her a little bit. He said they try to help out in that way in the meantime. He said as she knows and he appreciates her understanding that they are sitting with 700 plus homes that need to be torn down.
- Ms. Sanford said she understands.
- Mayor Cherepko said what they will do in the meantime until they can get to it is clean it up for her. He said he will talk to Steve in the morning about this.
- Ms. Sanford said thank you so much.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION 32015-32 – BILL #121: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING THE FISCAL YEAR 2015

HOME CONSORTIUM GRANT AMOUNT OF \$160,046.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE CITY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME CONSORTIUM PROGRAM, AND APPROVING THE EXECUTION OF A CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 IN THE ABOVE AMOUNT.

MOTION: **Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To adopt Bill #121."**

COMMENTS:

- Mayor Cherepko said this is the money that comes in each and every year which is available to homeowners only. He said it is specialized for those who are on fixed incomes, whether they are senior population or someone else who is on fixed income. He said once again it kind of goes into their message of Respect, Dignity, Love and Hope for those that want to better their homes that they live in but maybe don't have the funds available. He said this program is a remarkable program. He said as a matter of fact, most recently he spoke with someone who got \$25,000 of work done to their house for \$1,900.00. He said it was a program that they came under and they were extremely excited. He said he ran into him at Giant Eagle and he almost tackled him because he was so excited. He said it has been going on each and every year and is run through the McKeesport Housing Corporation.
- Mr. Soles said there are stipulations because you do have to live in your house and all that too.
- Mayor Cherepko said yes, it is not just for homeowners but they have to live in the house too and other things.
- Mr. McCall said it is income based.
- Mayor Cherepko said Mr. Soles has been on the McKeesport Housing Corporation Board for quite some time. He said it is

income based and that is why it is for most people on fixed income and they fall into that category.

RC-6 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-
 MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
 BARRY 6

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

 ABSTAIN: SOLES..... 1

Mr. Soles abstained because he is on the McKeesport Housing Corporation Board.

Ms. James read Bill #123.

Mr. Dellapenna said they have to go back to Bill #122.

Ms. James said she thought they tabled that last night.

Mr. Dellapenna said they have to vote on it today.

Mayor Cherepko said they have to vote to table it today.

BILL #122: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE REQUEST FROM VERIZON WIRELESS TO CO-LOCATE AN ANTENNA ON THE EXISTING COMMUNICATION TOWER AT 3411 VERSAILLES AVE., McKEESPORT, PA. THE PROPERTY EXISTS IN A C-1 ZONING DISTRICT.

Mr. Dellapenna said they are going to table this Bill because they have the wrong address in the Bill.

MOTION: Ms. Walker-Montgomery moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To table Bill #122."

RC-7 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-
MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2015-34 – BILL #123: RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A REVERSE SUBDIVISION REQUEST FROM FAMILY DOLLAR TO COMBINE SIX LOTS INTO ONE, 3101, 3103, 3111, 3113 AND 3215 VERSAILLES AVENUE WILL BECOME 3215 VERSAILLES AVENUE.

MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, "To adopt Bill #123."

COMMENTS:

- Mayor Cherepko said this is the project on Versailles Avenue which eliminates the one entire block between Ohio and Craig for the discount retail store to go in there. He said it has been one obstacle after another. He said they are very excited about the opportunity of having new development on Versailles Avenue because when he looks back, he cannot remember in his lifetime. He said this is a different part of the City where they have not had this. He said he does want to commend Mr. Tedesco; he has been the point man on this through all of the communications between multiple parties that are involved, not just the owners of the property but the companies and the other taxing bodies, the County and School District. He said he has been doing everything he can to keep this project moving along. He said hopefully they can overcome all the obstacles and make this thing happen. He said this will consolidate all the six separate lots into one.

RC-8 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-
MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

RESOLUTION #2015-35 – BILL #124: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AGREEING TO WORK COOPERATIVELY WITH THE LIVE WELL ALLEGHENY CAMPAIGN THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF “LIVE WELL MCKEESPORT,” AND TO WORK TOWARD THE SHARED GOALS OF PROMOTING HEALTHY LIVING, WELLNESS AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS.

MOTION: Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Mr. McCall, “To adopt Bill #124.”

RC-9 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-
MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ORDINANCE #15-15 – BILL #125: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER MUNICIPALITIES IN THE MON-VALLEY REGION AND DELEGATION OF CERTAIN FUNCTIONS, POWERS, OR RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT TO THE STEEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, AS PREDECESSOR OF A NEWLY FORMED COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, TO BE CREATED FROM THE MERGER OF THE TWIN RIVERS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AND THE STEEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, SETTING FORTH THE PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND DURATION OF THIS ORDINANCE, AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES OF

THE STEEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS, AS PREDECESSOR OF THE NEWLY FORMED COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS AS STATED ABOVE, AND DIRECTING THE PROPER OFFICERS OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THIS ORDINANCE.

MOTION: Mr. Soles moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, "To adopt Bill #125."

COMMENTS:

- Mayor Cherepko said this is merger of the two COGS, Twin Rivers and Steel Valley. He said Twin Rivers has actually been a tenant in their building and he has been on the board for over ten years now and fought hard to get them to locate in McKeesport and they were happy that they did because they do represent a dozen or so municipalities. He said they will be merging with Steel Valley COG and because Steel Valley COG owns a building in Homestead, they will be leaving this facility and merging over there. He said obviously with mergers it is just the things going on in this day and age, it is good to consolidate and not to compete against one another. He said being part of the Executive Board as Vice President, he was part of some of the negotiations and thinks it is a win-win for everyone. He said this will put them into the Steel Valley COG and the Steel Valley COG will remain ... nothing is official but it might change to Steel Rivers or like a blending of both names together. He said the County has been in full support of this as well.

RC-10 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR, BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ORDINANCE #15-16 – BILL #126: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AUTHORIZING THE PROPER CITY OFFICIALS TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH EQT PRODUCTION COMPANY FOR 133.257 ACRES ALONG EDEN PARK BOULEVARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRILLING AND OPERATING PRODUCTION FACILITIES FOR PRODUCING OIL, LIQUID HYDROCARBONS, ALL GASES INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION NATURAL GAS, METHANE GAS, COALBED METHANE GAS AND ALL CONSTITUENT PRODUCTS.

MOTION: **Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Ms. Brewster-Filotei, "To adopt Bill #126."**

COMMENTS:

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she has some discussion regarding this Bill. She said is there any harm in having a public meeting next week and doing a phone vote on this or are there other options to voting on this tonight and then having a public meeting in October. She said is there any harm in waiting on this.
- Mayor Cherepko said they are right now...it is no secret about the financial situation of the City. He said they have 120 days before they will get their bonus payment and 120 days takes them right now until the end of December. He said any delay whatsoever could also delay their payment and would be detrimental in December. He said it is money they were counting on.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said can they still have a public meeting in October, before the work session.
- Mayor Cherepko said they can actually ... he has no problem with that Ms. Walker-Montgomery. He said if they want to have a public meeting and let people come talk, he has no

problem with that. He said honestly. He said he really doesn't, they can do that. He said thinks at the end of the day they are going to have people show up that are against it and people show up that are for it, and nothing will get resolved, but they can have that. He said he has no problem with that.

- Mr. Elash said they specifically went over this that they will have an education seminar before they start any activity, even seismic testing.
- Mayor Cherepko said they are going to educate everyone.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said can they have them come in October.
- Mr. Dellapenna said can they have people from EQT come.
- Mayor Cherepko said absolutely. He said they can have EQT come before ... he said they could probably do it on Tuesday rather than Wednesday night. He said they can schedule them in for 6:00 and give them at least an hour before Tuesday's meeting.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she is going to say to the public, for them to come and attend this meeting. She said they do public meetings and she is always on these guys to have public meetings and like six people show up. She said no one shows up. She said if they are going to have a public meeting, the people have to come out and participate. She said it is posted on the Mayor's FaceBook page and in the newspaper and she posts it. She said no one shows up. She said if they have a meeting, they have to show up.
- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks what they do is, they kind of sold themselves on the City because they take pride in trying to ease people's concerns. He said you can never eliminate those concerns and that is why they are called accidents. He said all they can do is take all the measures

necessary to prevent accidents from happening. He said they will have a meeting Tuesday at 6:00 p.m.

RC-11 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR, SOLES..... 6

NAYS: BARRY 1

Someone in the audience said once the lease is signed there is no recourse. She said that is the whole thing.

Mr. Dellapenna said ma'am.

RESOLUTION #2015-36 – BILL #127: A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, EXPRESSING THE CITY OF McKEESPORT'S SUPPORT OF USBR 50.

MOTION: Mr. Carr moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #127."

RC-12 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR, BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

AMEND THE AGENDA:

MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Carr, "To Amend the Agenda to include Bills #128 and #129."

RC-13 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR, BARRY, SOLES 7

NAYS: NONE..... 0

ORDINANCE #15-17 – BILL #128: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITIES OF DUQUESNE AND McKEESPORT, AS PREPARED BY THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN-SETTING COMMITTEE AND PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 302 OF ACT 247, AS AMENDED, THE PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPALITIES PLANNING CODE.

MOTION: Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Barry, "To adopt Bill #128."

COMMENTS:

- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said she would like to go on the record stating her objections to this are not about the actual plan because she thinks it is a good plan but when they look at the definition of comprehensive, it is all-including to confront the issues of their City and one of the major issues that they have is the violence and community policing. She said she feels like those should be added. She said last night, the gentleman from the County said that this really is not the spot for that so she is asking ... he said there is some plan that will give them grants to actually do that. She said she doesn't know what those are but if they could research the funding to get a plan done on how they are going to address the community violence and policing, that would be her request that that would occur because there are some funding sources out there to do that. She said that way they could really write down how they are addressing the violence, because they are doing something but there is definitely more that can be done and should be done. She said they are talking about people's lives here. She said that is a very serious issue that they have to address. She said what she means is any particular vision for them to come here at all.

- Mr. McCall said he thinks they stated that there are grants out there too. He said to proceed to put a group together, that is all.
- Ms. Walker-Montgomery said yes to proceed with that and put something in writing. She said that would be her hope.
- Mayor Cherepko said he thinks if they look at the opportunity to put a plan together and put it in writing. He said obviously they have a plan, but he thinks it is something they should definitely do too. He said just for the record, when you do comprehensive plans, municipal comprehensive plans, typically they don't get into those issues, that is not what they do. He said Fawn brought that concern up months ago and even though as their company knew they didn't do it, they just wanted to cover and reach out to Allegheny County to protect themselves and say they were not crazy here right. He said this is something they are doing and Allegheny County said do it here and suggested other funds that are available.

RC-13 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, BREWSTER-FILOTEI,
CARR, BARRY, SOLES 6

NAYS: WALKER-MONTGOMERY 1

ORDINANCE #15-18 – BILL #129: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT, ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF McKEESPORT PREVIOUSLY EFFECTIVE, AND AS AMENDED, REPEALED OR OTHERWISE REVISED BY ORDINANCE FROM TIME TO TIME, RELATIVE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF CITY EMPLOYEES PENSION, ANNUITY, INSURANCE AND BENEFIT FUND OR FUNDS, TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE PENSION PLAN OR PROGRAM APPLICABLE TO THE POLICE EMPLOYEES OF SAID CITY.

MOTION: **Mr. McCall moved, seconded by Mr. Soles, "To adopt Bill #129."**

RC-14 YEAS: DELLAPENNA, McCALL, WALKER-
 MONTGOMERY, BREWSTER-FILOTEI, CARR,
 BARRY, SOLES 7

 NAYS: NONE..... 0

ADJOURNMENT:

President of Council Richard Dellapenna adjourned the meeting at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette James
City Clerk and Clerk of Council

APPROVED:

Richard Dellapenna
President of Council

daw